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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0091
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEAHND/COMJTF-B SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE 0219
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
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RULGPSU/COMSOC SOUTH IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1094
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000573

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #15 07/09/2009 AS OF 1500
LOCAL (1700 EDT)

REF: A. TEGUCIGALPA 564
[1](#)B. AND PREVIOUS

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Demonstrations move out of Tegucigalpa

[1](#)1. (U) As of 1040 local (1240 EDT), there are 2,500 Zelaya supporters blocking traffic on the highway between Choluteca and the El Salvador and Nicaraguan borders near the Germania bridge. This demonstration again confirms pro-Zelaya demonstrators' statements on Tuesday of plans to change their strategy and move their activity out of Tegucigalpa and onto the highways. Two other roadblocks, near Comayagua and Copan Ruinas, have been reported as well. Unconfirmed reports indicate pro-Zelaya demonstrators plan to create a roadblock tomorrow, Friday July 9, on the main CA-5 highway to San Pedro Sula.

[1](#)2. (U) Reports indicate that Honduran military appear to be pulling soldiers from various government buildings in Tegucigalpa, where they have provided security since June 28.

[1](#)3. (SBU) The curfew for tonight is from 23:00 to 04:00 local (01:00 to 06:00 EDT). Honduran National Police (HNP) report that 128 arrests were made on Wednesday night, July 8, for curfew violations. Police contacts report 4 Nicaraguan nationals were detained crossing the Honduran border at a location other than a port of entry near Tizatillo.

Political Developments; Public Opinion

[1](#)4. (U) On Wednesday afternoon, Post released a press statement explaining that a substantial amount of U.S. foreign assistance to Honduras has been suspended, and that much more is under review. The press release also noted the U.S. Embassy's support for the talks in Costa Rica, and urged the Honduran people to seek consensus.

¶5. (U) Local press published a letter from the Government of Nicaragua denying overfly permission to representatives of the de facto regime for their trip to Costa Rica. Post learned that as of this morning, the issue was resolved and the Micheletti delegation attended talks as scheduled today in Costa Rica.

¶6. (U) A CID-Gallop poll released Wednesday and reported in the press today found that a plurality -- but not a majority -- of Hondurans thought that the June 28 coup was justified and that Zelaya had intended to use his proposed opinion survey and referendum on constitutional reform to remain in power beyond January 2010. A strong majority -- 63 percent -- were opposed to a public "consultation" on convening a constituent assembly to rewrite the constitution -- the issue that led to Zelaya's removal -- with only 22 percent favoring; 47 percent thought Zelaya intended to use it to stay in power. As for whether this justified his removal from office, 41 percent said yes, 28 percent said no and 31 percent had no opinion.

Infrastructure and Communications

¶7. (U) Toncontin Airport is open and operating as of Tuesday afternoon, July 7. Continental Airlines resumed flights into Toncontin on Wednesday July 8. Delta Airlines indicate they will resume flights to Toncontin today, July 9, and American Airlines will resume full operations tomorrow, Friday July 10 or Saturday, July 11. San Pedro Sula airport remains open for international flights, and American, Continental and Delta airlines continue to operate flights as

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usual to and from that destination. All land borders are reportedly open to both private and commercial traffic.

¶8. (U) As of Thursday morning, there are no/no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

Consular and Embassy Operations

¶9. (SBU) Until commercial flights at Toncontin Airport have fully resumed, the Embassy's Management office continues to support official air travel via San Pedro Sula and provide over land transportation to Tegucigalpa.

¶10. (U) The Embassy is open for all regular consular services today, July 8. Barring a change in the security situation, the consular section plans to be open for regular consular services until further notice.

¶11. (U) The Consular Section has received welfare and whereabouts inquiries on more than 650 Amcits to date via telephone and email. Post issued a new warden message last night and barring any major changes in the security situation, discontinued the practice of daily warden messages. The Consular Section continues to regularly update ACS talking points on the Embassy website, and has advised Amcits to abide by the curfew and monitor the Embassy website for updates.

¶12. (SBU) Another EAC will take place tomorrow, Friday July 10, at 1300 local time (1500 EDT).
LLORENS